

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

*A Weekly Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy*

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October 25, 2013

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SelectUSA Investment Summit Will Bring More Than 1,000 to U.S. ....	1
NATO Defense Ministers Lay Groundwork for 2014 Summit.....	1
U.S. Welcomes Record Number of Refugees.....	2
Secretary Kerry: Friends of Syria Seek November Peace Conference.....	3
U.S. Climate Negotiator Sees Path to New Global Agreement .....	4
U.S. Expands Health Research Partnerships in Africa .....	5

## SelectUSA Investment Summit Will Bring More Than 1,000 to U.S.

24 October 2013

Washington – More than 1,000 participants have registered to attend the SelectUSA 2013 Investment Summit October 31–November 1 in Washington, U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker announced October 23. The event will be at capacity attendance, she said.

President Obama launched SelectUSA in 2011 as the first U.S. governmentwide initiative to promote investment in the United States. This first summit will connect foreign companies and investors with local, state and regional economic development organizations.

“The strong interest we are seeing in the SelectUSA Investment Summit demonstrates the excitement of companies at home and abroad about the opportunities that exist for investing in the United States,” Pritzker said in a Commerce Department press release. “On top of an excellent agenda, participants will be able to learn about federal government resources available as they consider their investment decisions.”

Economic development organizations from 47 states plus the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories will participate. Companies representing nearly 60 markets will also attend.

With such wide state government participation at the summit, Pritzker said, “it will be a tremendous opportunity to connect these firms with communities looking to attract investment.”

In addition to Pritzker, Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew and U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman will participate in the summit, the Commerce Department previously announced.

The speaker and moderator lineup for the summit also features 42 top public- and private-sector representatives, including Governors Bill Haslam of Tennessee, Jack Markell of Delaware and Martin O’Malley of Maryland, presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett and Director of the National Economic Council Gene Sperling, as well as corporate leaders Laurence Fink of BlackRock Inc., Daniel Doctoroff of Bloomberg LP, Douglas Oberhelman of Caterpillar Inc., Andrew Liveris of Dow Chemical Company, Eric Spiegel of Siemens Corporation and William (Bill) Simon of Wal-Mart US.

## NATO Defense Ministers Lay Groundwork for 2014 Summit

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer |  
24 October 2013

Washington – NATO defense ministers meeting in Brussels October 22–23 focused on laying the groundwork for the 2014 summit that will be hosted by British Prime Minister David Cameron.

“We see three priority areas for the summit: capabilities, partnerships and Afghanistan. Our sessions [October 22] focused on NATO military capabilities and the need to continue to invest in these capabilities to meet 21st-century challenges,” Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said.

At an October 23 briefing, Hagel said the summit “will enable NATO leaders to set priorities for the future of the alliance” with the broader, long-term aim of strengthening the trans-Atlantic alliance.

Hagel said two decades of experience in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Libya and off the Somali coast have helped build NATO forces that can work together seamlessly, and the goal of the defense ministers is to preserve “that hard-won capability in the future.”

The 2014 summit will be the first for the 28-nation security alliance since President Obama hosted NATO ministers in Chicago in May 2012.

In a September 26 announcement, the White House said the annual summit reinforces the importance of strengthening NATO and allied capabilities to address today’s security challenges and continue to enhance NATO’s partnerships across the globe.

NATO leaders will review implementation of the alliance’s Strategic Concept, which the leaders agreed to during the 2010 Lisbon Summit, and pursue NATO’s transformation to ensure it builds the capabilities to address future challenges. The summit also will be an opportunity to recognize contributions of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) coalition since 2003 and review progress of Afghan forces as they assume responsibility for security across Afghanistan, the White House said.

### CAPACITY-BUILDING

Maintaining the capability gained from the extended experiences outside of NATO’s traditional trans-Atlantic area is the goal of its newly developed Connected Forces Initiative, and the defense ministers agreed on the key elements of that initiative at the two-day meeting, Hagel said.

"In 2015, the alliance will begin regular large-scale exercises to ensure that our forces continue to gain experience working alongside each other, and even after we draw down combat forces from Afghanistan, we will continue to work together and enhance and enlarge these exercises," he said.

The United States also is increasing its participation in a rapidly deployable, multinational alliance capability called the NATO Response Force. The United States will send a battalion-sized military unit to Europe twice a year to participate in Response Force training and train with individual allied military units.

The United States will send forces to support the NATO Response Force Exercise Steadfast Jazz in a few weeks, marking the first time it has sent a ground unit to participate in the exercise. U.S. ground units are usually drawn from the Army or Marine Corps and involve front-line combat troops.

The NATO Computer Incident Response Center, which should be fully operational in a week, will provide protection from cyberintrusions against NATO computer networks. The United States supports a proposal for the center to have teams of experts that can be quickly deployed to assist allied nations if they request help in dealing with network intrusions or attacks, Hagel said.

Allied military experts have long recognized that a significant security vulnerability is hackers attacking military command, intelligence and communication computer networks, especially in relation to traditional military operations.

Hagel said the United States continues to deploy the European Phased Adaptive Approach, which will provide limited protection to allied nations from a potential ballistic missile attack somewhere in Europe. Under Secretary of Defense Jim Miller will join NATO leaders at a groundbreaking ceremony for the missile defense radar site in Romania and attend a missile defense conference in Poland.

#### NATO AND RUSSIA

Hagel encouraged alliance members to make strong, long-term commitments to NATO. "Overdependence on any one country for critical capabilities brings with it risks, and we must continue to work to more equally share the burden of providing security," he said.

Hagel said NATO must also build effective working partnerships with nations outside of the alliance, such as Russia. He noted that on October 23 the NATO-Russia Council had its first defense ministerial meeting in several years. "Russia and NATO have many areas of common

interest, including the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles," Hagel said.

Hagel met on the sidelines of the ministerial meeting with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoygu. The two agreed to increase consultations and hold regular videoconferences.

"This new security cooperation channel can help lay a foundation for progress in what's an important military-to-military relationship," Hagel said.

#### AFGHANISTAN

During the ISAF session, the defense ministers assessed progress in Afghanistan and toward achieving NATO security goals, Hagel said. Hagel also updated defense ministers on the status of talks between the United States and Afghanistan on a bilateral security agreement and met separately with Afghan Defense Minister Bismullah Khan Mohammadi.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said NATO defense ministers and ISAF partners discussed with Afghan counterparts current progress and planning for the post-2014 mission, which is to train, advise and assist Afghan security forces.

"We have moved closer to putting that mission in place. Our military commanders have reviewed planning and identified in broad terms the key elements we require to set up the mission," Rasmussen said. He added that Afghan forces took the lead for providing security nationwide in June.

"Currently, they are leading more than 1,000 patrols a day. They are planning and conducting complex operations in all parts of the country and they are developing their skills in areas such as helicopter air support," Rasmussen said. "All of this is to achieve the best possible position from which they will assume full responsibility for security at the end of 2014."

#### U.S. Welcomes Record Number of Refugees

By Jane Morse | Staff Writer | 23 October 2013

Washington – The United States welcomed a record number of refugees in fiscal year 2013.

The 69,930 refugees who found safe haven this year in the United States represent the Obama administration's commitment to creating a refugee admissions program that meets important security screening standards as well as growing humanitarian need. The number of admitted refugees also is closer to the authorized ceiling — 70,000 in 2013 — than in any year since 1980, according to figures provided by the U.S. Department of State.

"Thousands of people overseas and across the United States make the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program possible each year," said Anne Richard, the State Department's assistant secretary for population, refugees and migration. "They deserve credit for making this program so successful. It is a testament to the effective partnership between the public and private sectors and reflects the best values of the United States," she said.

The top five nationalities resettled to the United States in 2013 were Iraqi, Burmese, Bhutanese, Somali and Cuban. Upon their arrival in the United States, refugees have been resettled in 186 communities in 49 states. Through use of transit centers hosted by the governments of Romania and Slovakia, the United States was able to resettle Iraqi refugees trapped by the war in Syria as well as at-risk Afghan women who were formerly in Iran.

According to the State Department, the violence in Syria has led to more than 4.25 million Syrians being displaced internally and more than 1.5 million becoming refugees.

For fiscal year 2014, President Obama authorized the admission of another 70,000 refugees, representing some 60 nationalities from around the world. The United States expects strong arrivals from Iraq, Burma and Bhutan. Efforts are being made to increase the number of Congolese and Syrian refugees who wish to settle in the United States.

A refugee is legally described as someone who has fled from his or her home country and cannot return because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates there are approximately 15.4 million refugees in the world. The UNHCR reports that less than 1 percent of all refugees are eventually resettled in third countries. Of these, the United States welcomes over half, more than all other resettlement countries combined. More than 3 million refugees have come to the United States in the last 35 years, according to the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. The United States is also the single-largest donor to international relief efforts for refugees.

In remarks delivered June 20 for World Refugee Day, Secretary of State John Kerry spoke of America's "proud tradition of welcoming those fleeing violence and persecution."

"Their presence makes our country more diverse, our culture richer and our national character stronger," Kerry said.

## Secretary Kerry: Friends of Syria Seek November Peace Conference

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer |  
22 October 2013

Washington — Secretary of State John Kerry says he is hopeful that new Geneva talks can begin in November to resolve the 2½-year Syrian civil war and lead to a transitional government.

Diplomats from 11 Western and Middle Eastern nations — members of the Friends of Syria group — met for two days in London to develop plans for a peace conference and also to encourage opposition groups to participate in a negotiated settlement. The conference was hosted by British Foreign Secretary William Hague.

"We came here to London ... to reaffirm the international community's strong commitment to trying to end the bloodshed in Syria and to try to bring stability to that war-torn country, and to provide sanctuary and ultimately an opportunity to return to their country for the millions of refugees and displaced people," Kerry said October 22 at a London press briefing.

The 11 nations, who are known as the London 11, issued a communiqué after their meeting that welcomed a September 27 agreement by the U.N. Security Council on the urgent need for a political transition in Syria and its endorsement of the formation of a Transitional Governing Body. The transitional government would have full executive powers, including authority over security, military and intelligence structures.

Kerry said the ministers increased their commitment to convening a Geneva conference with the specific purpose of implementing a previous plan from June 2012 to establish a transitional government. He added that representatives from the 11 nations agreed to coordinate assistance for the opposition, including the Syrian Opposition Coalition — "the legitimate representative of the Syrian people."

Everyone involved in the London meeting agreed that it is imperative that they try to get to the negotiating table and work to save lives and to save the existence of the state of Syria, Kerry said.

"The only alternative to a negotiated settlement is continued, if not increased, killing," Kerry told journalists. "This is a tragedy, and right now it is one of the great tragedies on the face of this planet, and it deserves the focus and attention of all of us to try to bring it to an end."

One of the significant concerns of the international community is that further conflict could lead to the implosion of Syria, Kerry said, which could contribute to

a rise of extremist groups and further suffering for refugees fleeing the conflict.

“It will further destabilize the region and lead ultimately to the disintegration of the Syrian state,” Kerry said. “All of this makes this challenge a global challenge, an international challenge of the greatest proportions.”

Kerry said the 2012 Geneva communiqué calling for a transitional government is more than a piece of paper – it is a road map that leads to a new future aimed at ending bloodshed and responding to the widening humanitarian crisis the conflict has created.

Kerry said the goal is to find people who would be acceptable to both sides in this civil conflict, who would have the respect of the Syrian people, and who would be able to manage a transitional government that allows the people of Syria to determine their future. The regime of President Bashar al-Assad has lost all legitimacy and all capacity to govern the country, he added.

Based on United Nations estimates, more than 100,000 people have been killed in the conflict, including the nearly 1,500 Syrian civilians killed in a chemical weapons attack.

The London 11 group includes representatives from Britain, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

### **U.S. Climate Negotiator Sees Path to New Global Agreement**

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer | 22 October 2013

Washington – The chief U.S. climate negotiator is proposing the main pillars of a new world agreement to control greenhouse gases (GHGs) and limit climate change, pillars which allow greater flexibility in how nations move toward creating clean-energy economies.

Todd Stern, representing the U.S. State Department as the special envoy for climate change, spoke at the 17th annual Chatham House Conference on Climate Change in London. Chatham House, the headquarters of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, focused the October 21-22 meeting on workable solutions that will help all nations move toward low-carbon economies.

Stern outlined points for an “ambitious, durable, new international climate change agreement,” which comes up for global consideration in November at the 19th Conference of the Parties meeting of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw.

The core elements of a new climate agreement to succeed

the Kyoto Protocol, Stern said, must “integrate flexibility with strength,” while also being ambitious and inclusive. The Kyoto agreement, signed in 1997 and effective in 2005, set international emissions reduction targets and timetables for reaching them.

Stern proposes a second-generation agreement that allows nations to determine the nature and level of their commitments on their own, “consistent with their own circumstances and capabilities.” He envisions a system that inspires nations to set goals that are ambitious and clear.

“Strong action is a favor we do ourselves because we are all profoundly vulnerable to climate change,” Stern said. “The world will be watching how we measure up.” Rather than an agreement with a rigid structure of rules nations should follow for lowering GHG outputs, the U.S. envoy suggests an agreement that sets standards through “norms and expectations.” Norms have the power to inspire ambition in nations, he says, and he predicts that nations will strive to “enhance their global standing and reputation” by meeting the expectations.

Stern said the negotiations on a new agreement must move beyond “differentiation, the issue that has bedeviled climate negotiations more than any other in the past 20 years.” Kyoto provisions distinguish between the industrialized nations that emitted the greatest levels of GHGs before 1992, when the UNFCCC was created, and the emerging economies that have since become major contributors to the world’s carbon dioxide output.

U.S. opposition to the Kyoto Protocol under the administration of President George W. Bush stemmed largely from this measure. The administration of that era rejected the principle that developed nations were the only ones required to reduce GHGs, and so rejected U.S. membership in the agreement in 2001.

Stern said developing countries should not be forced to inhibit industrial development for the cause of climate change mitigation. But an agreement of the 21st century should not be based on national categorizations established in 1992, Stern added. National emission profiles have changed considerably since then, Stern said, with developing nations accounting for 45 percent of emissions then and more than 60 percent today.

“The world is now emitting as much every decade as all the cumulative emissions that occurred before 1970,” Stern said. “It is unwarranted to assign blame to developed countries for emissions before the point at which people realized that those emissions caused harm.”

Providing aid to emerging economies to help them develop clean-energy economies is another major issue

influencing the upcoming Warsaw negotiations. The United States is providing about \$2.5 billion a year to this goal, a sixfold increase since 2008, Stern said, adding that significant opportunities exist to attract private investment in low-carbon innovation.

Even with his focus on a future international agreement, Stern reminded his audience, "The most important drivers of climate action are countries acting at home."

He cited the Obama administration's release of a new Climate Action Plan earlier in 2013, new proposals on carbon release limits at new U.S. power plants, and new rules to double the fuel efficiency of vehicles.

### **U.S. Expands Health Research Partnerships in Africa**

21 October 2013

Washington – The United States is expanding its partnership with African institutions and scientists for research into some of the most vexing health problems plaguing the continent and world.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) October 18 announced 10 new grants totaling up to \$17 million over the next four years. The new awards include funding for two collaborative centers, one that will study the risk factors for stroke and another that will study the role of the human vaginal microbiome in cervical cancer.

New individual research projects will study several other health conditions important in Africa, including neurological disorders, respiratory diseases, fevers of unknown origin, tuberculosis and African sleeping sickness, NIH said.

The new funding will also support two new centers for collaborative research with African scientists.

The African Collaborative Center for Microbiome and Genomics Research at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria, will receive up to \$4.16 million over four years. Cervical cancer is the most common cancer in Africa, NIH said. This grant will focus on the epidemiology of cervical cancer and human papillomavirus infection. "It addresses a high-impact public health challenge that affects women's health in Africa and the rest of the world," NIH said.

In addition to research, this center will provide postdoctoral training for qualified candidates from across Africa in research methods, epidemiology, bioinformatics, data management and laboratory methods.

The grant also includes study of and training in social and behavioral research, which will be conducted through the Institute of Human Virology and the African University

of Science and Technology, both in Nigeria, and the Center for Infectious Diseases Research in Zambia.

The other collaborative research center, the Stroke Investigative Research & Educational Network at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, will receive up to \$2.37 million over four years.

Stroke is the leading cause of neurological hospital admissions in Africa and a leading cause of deaths on the continent, NIH said. Researchers at this center will evaluate the genetic and environmental risk factors for stroke in Africa, along with training professionals and building research capacity.

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